

From: Douglas Martinez
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 2:17am
Subject: MicroSoft Settlement

I am writing this in regards to the Tunny Act public comment period and the proposed antitrust settlement case in which Microsoft was found guilty of abusing it's power as a monopoly. As a consumer and a American I am profoundly upset with the current proposed settlement which has made it's way to the public. Microsoft was found guilty of abusing it's power as a monopoly and it must be punished accordingly in order to fix the harm which was done to the PC industry and tech sector as a whole. The proposed settlement will only lead to further abuse by Microsoft and in the long run and it will help Microsoft further establish a even greater strangle hold in the OS market. At the same time Microsoft will more then likely continue to do all it can to stifle competition because it feels that it has the power and means to do so despite the guilty verdict which was handed down by the courts. If government were to seek a solution like making Microsoft to the likes of forcing Microsoft to open it's file formats or if they were to only allow them (Microsoft) to use open file formats in their applications I feel this would greatly help fix the damage done by Microsoft to the technology industry along with a few other well thought out measures. All of which when combined together will hopefully open Microsoft up so they would have to really compete on the merits of their products instead of the weight they push around in this industry. Which of course it has used maliciously to intimidate, lie, cheat, and steal all in order so they can maintain their bloated monopoly.

Monopolies like Microsoft only hurt our economy by denying consumers the right to choose and by victimizing/blackmailing OEM and Hardware Vendors and the many Software companies waiting in the wings who wish to offer a alternatives to Microsoft products. All of whom are afraid to so because they fear being bullied by Microsoft because of the power which it wields in the PC world. Let us not forget that whatever Microsoft can't steal (example : Sun's JAVA,) it will try to destroy (Netscape, Lotus, Corel Word Perfect, Corel Linux, and many more software applications and companies) by using it's control of the OS market to push a Microsoft only solution. I hope that our government would please rethink the propose settlement so that the consumers and our government will not be held hostage by Microsoft and it's dominance in the OS market which it unjustly gained control of through the use of illegal and abusive means as a monopoly.

Sincerely, Douglas G. Martinez (A Consumer, A Capitalist and Proud American.)

